Village Industries in H.P.

887. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages in Himachal Pradesh where the people have been engaged in the village industries;

(b) the details of village industries in Himachal Pradesh which have been registered;

(c) whether there is any programme under consideration of Government with regard to expansion of such industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There are 16997 villages in Himachal Pradesh where 0.69 lakhs people have been engaged in the village industries.

(b) There are 60 registered institutions in Himachal Pradesh which are engaged in village industries such as Oil, Fibre, Non-Edible Oils and Soap, Cottage match, Electronics, Fruits and Vegetable Processing, Handmade Paper, Processing of Cereals and Pulses, Pottery, Leather, Carpentry and Blacksmithy, Lime manufacturing, Gur and Khandsari, Bee-Keeping, Polymer, Bio-Gas, Aluminium, Bell Metal, Cane and Bamboo, Katha, Textile Industries etc.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no bar for taking up any village industry except for a small negative list.